

## THE BRIDGE ORATIONS.

FORMAL DELIVERY OF THE STRUCTURE.  
WILLIAM C. KINGSLY SPEAKING FOR THE TRUSTEES—ADDRESSES BY MAYORS EDSON AND LOW—ORATIONS OF ABRAM S. HEWITT AND DR. STORRS.

The big building at the Brooklyn entrance to the Bridge in which the formal ceremonies took place yesterday was tastefully decorated with bunting on the inside, while across the galleries were hung gold-splashed bunting streamers. The shields of the States and Territories were displayed on each side of the structure. The folly of issuing thousands more of tickets than there were seats was early apparent. The great crowd which gathered in front of the building with tickets of admission was allowed to enter at 12:45. Immediately there was a tumultuous rush for the 3,500 seats, which were filled almost in a twinkling. It was with great difficulty that the throng could be kept off the decorated platform on the south side which was reserved for the President and Cabinet and the Governor and Staff. Opposite that platform was the platform for the speakers. The building had a roof and sides, but no ends, and a crisp breeze swept through during the whole of the exercises, making it almost impossible to hear the speeches, and causing men like Attorney-General Brewster, who do not care to invite pneumonia, to sit with their hats on.

The work of keeping order had been delegated to the militia under Colonel Culver, instead of to experienced policemen, and the result was that there was no such thing as order. The people crowded in everywhere, filling the aisles and platforms and the reporter's tables and the seats reserved for the Trustees and invited guests, and laughed at the military when asked to move. The aisles were so crowded that a person once in a place could not hope to get out of it until the three hours' exercises were ended. The officers tried to clear the centre aisle to make room for the party that was coming over the Bridge, but no impression could be made on the multitude. Once in awhile the announcement would be made that the President was coming, which gave rise to cheering. Finally the head of the column could be seen through the western end of the building, and the thousands of people gathered in and about the buildings shouted lustily. With a great deal of difficulty the President and his Cabinet and the Governor were finally seated on the raised platform arranged for them; Secretary Frelinghuysen sat on the President's right, and then Secretaries Folger and Chandler and Postmaster-General Gresham. Back of the President sat Mrs. Low, Mrs. Chandler, Mrs. Strauman, and some other ladies. On the President's left sat Governor Cleveland, Lieutenant-Governor Hill, the Governor's staff and a number of military officers. An officer of the Navy held a parasol over the President's head to protect him from the sun, and over the top of the parasol could be seen looming up the points of General Sumner's shirt collar. On the same side of the house sat John Jay, Cyrus W. Field, General Woodford, Speaker Chapman, Senator Colquitt, of Georgia, Judge Benedict, Congressman Campbell, and many leading citizens of New-York and Brooklyn.

It was with difficulty that Mayors Edson and Low, Mr. Hewitt and the Trustees could get to the stand for the speakers, and when the orators reached the spot there were no seats for them. After a long wait and much confusion seats were procured. It was then found that there were no seats for the band that was to furnish music. Moreover, the crowd was now so great that the musicians could not get into the building. Accordingly there was no music. Bishop Littlejohn, of Brooklyn, assisted by the Rev. George R. Vande water, read an appropriate religious service.

ADDRESS OF WILLIAM C. KINGSLY.

Mr. Strauman, who presided, then said: "You will now listen to an address on behalf of the Bridge Trustees by William C. Kingsley, acting President." There was faint cheering when Mr. Kingsley came forward. He read his address, as did all the speakers except Mayor Low. There was so much confusion that even at the President's stand Mr. Kingsley could not be heard. He was cheered when he referred to the Rockings. His address was as follows:

In the presence of this great assemblage, and of the chosen representatives of the people of these two great cities, of the Governor of the State of New-York and of the President of the United States, the pleasing duty devolves upon me, as the legal agent of the Board of Trustees of the New York and Brooklyn Bridge, to announce formally to the chief magistrates of these two municipalities that this bridge is now ready to be opened for public use, and is subject to its control and management only to such restrictions as to people, to whom it belongs, may choose to impose upon themselves. If I were at liberty to consult my own wishes I should not attempt to occupy your attention any further. I am here as the spokesman of my associates in the Board of Bridge Trustees. They are well content to let this great structure speak for them, and to speak more fitting and more eloquently yet for the skillful, faithful, and daring men who have given us so many years of their lives—and in several instances, even their lives—to the end that the natural barrier to the union, growth, and greatness of this great commercial empire should be removed, and that a vast scientific creation should be matched in the skill and courage and endurance upon which it depended for its realization. (Applause.) With one name, in an eloquent sense, this bridge will always be associated—that of Roebling. (Applause.) At the outset of this enterprise we were so fortunate as to be able to secure the services of the late John A. Roebling, who had built the suspension bridges in this country, and who had just then completed the largest suspension bridge ever constructed in this country, and who had lost his life in its service. The main design was, however, completed by the elder Roebling before he met his sad and untimely death. He was succeeded at once by his son, Colonel Washington A. Roebling (applause), who had for years before shared in his father's professional confidence and labor. His son did not succeed the father by inheritance merely. The elder Roebling, according to his own statement, would not have undertaken the conduct of this work at his age—and he was independent of mere professional gain—if it were not for the fact, as he frequently stated, that he had a son who was entirely capable of building this bridge. Indeed, the elder Roebling advised that the son, who was destined to carry on and complete the work, should be placed in chief authority at the beginning.

The turning point—an determining the feasibility of this enterprise—was reached down in the earth, and under the bed of the East River. During the anxious days and nights while work was going on within the caskets Colonel Roebling seemed to be always on hand, at the head of his men, to direct their efforts and to guard their safety. The result of all this toilsome effort was not long ago proved to be disastrous. The foundations of the towers were successfully laid, and the problem of the feasibility of the bridge was solved. Colonel Roebling contrived the most巧妙的 devices in the construction of the towers, so as to give the strength of the bridge to the safety of the men employed. For many long and weary years this man, who entered our service young and full of life and hope and daring, has labored with untiring energy and enthusiasm, and with the qualities which have made the great bridge, and those qualities which will still make our city great and our people great. Our grant they never may be.

Gentlemen of the Trustees,秉承ing the bridge at your hands, I thank you warmly in Brooklyn's name for your munificent and arduous labors. (Applause.)

ADDRESS OF MAYOR EDSON.

When Mayor Edson was presented to the audience he was chee-

red. He read his speech in a loud voice, as follows:

There is still more to be embraced in the records of the achievements of American enterprise and of American genius. (Applause.)

I wish I speak for the Board of Trustees in return

for the many good services rendered by the Mayor and his friends. (Applause.) For the rest of the speech, the men have been engaged on the Bridge from its commencement to its completion. It is the only way to see to it that the work is done well. The laborers engaged on the Bridge are the sons and daughters of the numerous classes of art, which at once gladden the eye and raise the standard of civilization, have kept abreast with its growth in every part of the world, and their work is the best in the world. (Applause.)

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